

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8489

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AG SS

SUBJ: SAHARA AND OAU

REF A. ALGIERS 0609 B. ADDIS ABABA 2535

1. MOROCCAN VIEW OF OAU PROCEDURE (CF PARA 2, REF A) CORRECT AS FAR AS IT GOES. AS REPORTED PARA 1, REF B, NOT ONLY WAS THE CONSENSUS IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN REGARDING THE RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO AS A LIBERATION MOVEMENT, POLISARIO FURTHER COMPLICATED THE ISSUE BY DECLARATION OF STATEHOOD BEFORE OAU MINISTERS HAD REACHED A DECISION. ONCE SDAR WAS ANNOUNCED, RECOGNITION OF A LIBERATION GROUP BECAME A DEAD ISSUE.

2. ACCORDING TO WESTERN DIPLOMATIC NOSE-COUNTING HERE DURING OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CM), SDAR RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM 16 TO 18 OAU STATES. WE BELIEVE THESE TO BE:
ANGOLA, GUINEA BISSAU, GHANA, MOZAMBIQUE, CAPE VERDE, SAO TOME, GUINEA, COMOROS ISLANDS, MADAGASCAR, BENIN, BURUNDI, ALGERIA, SOMALIA, LIBYA, TANZANIA, AND CONGO.

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OUR INFO INDICATES THOSE FIRMLY AGAINST SDAR WERE:

MOROCCO, MAURETANIA, SENEGAL, CAR, ZAIRE, TUNISIA, ZAMBIA,
MALAWI, LIBERIA, CAMEROUN, IVORY COAST, NIGER, AND MALI.
LATTER TWO REPORTEDLY WERE OF "GREAT ASSISTANCE" TO MOROCCO
IN STAVING OFF ALGERIAN/CAPE VERDE/POLISARIO MANEUVERS.
DESCRIBED TO US AS NEUTRALS WERE:
EGYPT, GAMBIA, UPPER VOLTA, UGANDA, SUDAN, LESOTHO, ETHIOPIA,
CHAD, AND NIGERIA.

COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, SEVERAL STATES ARE MISSING FROM FOREGOING.
IT WAS A GENERALLY-HELD VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT ALGERIA'S SDAR
WAS VIEWED WITH SOME SYMPATHY BY NO MORE THAN 18 DELEGATIONS
AT CM. WHETHER, IN LIGHT OF FAST MOVING EVENTS DURING AND
FOLLOWING CM (VIZ. POLISARIO LIBERATION MOVEMENT'S TRANS-
FORMATION INT SDAR; CLOSUREOF MOZAMBIQUE'S BORDER WITH
RHODESIA AND ESCALATING VIOLENCE THERE; CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE
NEW INVOLVEMENT OF CUBANS/SOVIETS IN RHODESIA, SAHARAN, OR
DJIBOUTI PROBLEMS) AFRICAN GOVT ATTITUDES WILL LONG BE
ADEQUATELY REFLECTED BY ABOVE NOSE COUNT IS MOOT.
HUMMEL

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